

Welcome to RIDE THE CYCLONE!

RIDE THE CYCLONE is the story of six teenagers from a high school chamber choir who die in a roller coaster accident and find themselves in limbo. One of the characters was a student who was beheaded in the accident and has no memory of her past life – thus she is Jane Doe. She moves and talks like a robot and adds an eerie presence to the already eerie abandoned amusement park setting. A mechanical fortune teller appears and offers one of the students a chance to return to life if they compete by telling their stories.

The show is a visually stunning musical comedy that asks “What makes a life well lived?”. It tackles the difficult subjects of grief and loss head-on but also invites the audience to see each other and themselves with new eyes. It engages the audience from the opening scene and lets them feel big feelings and encounter the mysteries and wonders of being human. While the storyline covers difficult content, the script uses a lot of comedy to keep things from getting too dark. The characters themselves have no idea they are funny – they’re just awkward, sometimes infuriating, and ultimately real teenage souls. In 90 minutes, the audience sees them transform from stereotypical teenagers into fully realized souls that they will never forget. The transformation of the characters reminds the audience that through empathy, change is possible.

You can listen to the cast recording at the link below. Note that the licensed version of the show we will be performing may not include every song on the original recording and may include new ones or changes to the original songs.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jf0xVYkyCT8&list=PLifAvT3M8XMqswlRaMLkvDyzjGd73kh3_

Characters

All characters except Karnak must be strong singers, move or dance well and be strong actors. There are no “leads” in this production - it’s very much an ensemble show with all characters having their own “moments” both in dialogue and singing. Every character is on stage for the entire production and sings either the lead or ensemble parts in every song with the exception of Karnak.

The age ranges listed are approximations. All characters except Karnak are members of a high school chamber choir and thus actors playing those roles must be able to play that age. Karnak is the opposite as the character is older and wiser despite being a machine.

THE AMAZING KARNAK - Male; 30+, non-singing, non-dancing role

Karnak is an ominous mechanical fortune-telling machine who narrates the story. A rumbling voice with a steady, measured, calm inflection that exudes gravitas, but it is never pushed to comedic extremes. Think Zoltar in the film “Big”.

OCEAN ROSENBERG - Female-presenting, 18-25; Vocal Range: Soprano belter (B3-E5)

Ocean is the overachieving, self-assured, and somewhat egotistical self-proclaimed leader of the choir. She is bright, peppy, obnoxiously self-important, highly competitive and hides her vulnerability beneath a confident exterior. She has big dreams and an intense need to be the best. Strong comedic and vocal skills are required. Her main song "What the World Needs" is a Taylor Swift full pop song with mean girl lyrics.

NOEL GRUBER - Male-presenting, 18-25; Vocal Range: Baritenor (G2-G4)

Noel works at Taco Bell and is the only gay kid in his small town. He is a dramatic aspiring poet who dreamt of being a tragic French chanteuse. Must have a strong sense of irony and dark humor. His main song "Noel's Lament" expresses his deep yearning for a life of tragedy and romance by playing Monique Gibeau, a tragic sex worker in post-war France that was inspired by femme fatales of French cinema.

MISCHA BACHINSKI - Male-presenting, 18-25; Vocal Range Baritone, Rap Singer (A2-G4)

Ukrainian-born bad boy with a romantic side, Mischa presents himself as tough and stoic, but underneath is a passionate dreamer. He is devoted to his fiancée and often raps in his musical numbers. Mischa is the only character with two featured songs that are very different styles and require a strong singer. The first is "This Song is Awesome" is a fun, hip-hop song which requires strong vocal skills and the ability to rap. The second "Talia" is the only "love" song in the show and is about his online fiancée.

CONSTANCE BLACKWOOD - Female-presenting; 18-25; Vocal Range Mezzo-Soprano (G3-E5)

Constance is the sweetest and most optimistic of the group. Known as the "nicest girl in school," she is overlooked but secretly longs to be noticed and to express her true self. Requires warmth and vulnerability, with a comedic touch. She has a long monologue at the end of the show that really is the heart of the show. Her main song "Sugar Cloud" is a pop-rock song about coming to terms with how her seemingly meaningless and meager existence panned out, and how there actually wasn't anything wrong with her life like she had thought when she was still alive.

RICKY POTTS - Male-presenting; 18-25, Vocal Range Baritone, rock tenor (A2-A4)

Ricky is shy and withdrawn, living in his own world due to a physical disability. However, in his imagination, he transforms into a futuristic superhero. The transition from quiet and introverted to confident and expressive occurs throughout the show. Strong acting and vocal skills required. His main song "Space Age Bachelor Man" is a high energy rock song and is a mix of styles including David Bowie, Prince & Queen.

JANE DOE - Female-presenting, 18-25; Vocal Range Classical Soprano (C4-E5)

Mysterious and eerie, Jane is the unknown girl who was beheaded in the coaster accident and replaces it with a doll's head. She has no memory of her past and sings in a hauntingly beautiful, ethereal style and moves in a robotic, doll-like fashion. Requires very strong classical vocals and the ability to convey emotion through robotic movement and voice. Her main song "Ballad of Jane Doe" requires both strong vocal ability but the ability to move and sing while in various physical positions.